

Two months later, seven men were charged with conspiracy to incite a riot. After a lot of insults hurled at the elderly judge, the trial ended with the defendants serving three months in jail. Most notably among them was Jeff Dowd, the man portrayed in the movie *The Big Lebowski*.

When this author reached to Jeff Dowd for a statement, he sent us this image:

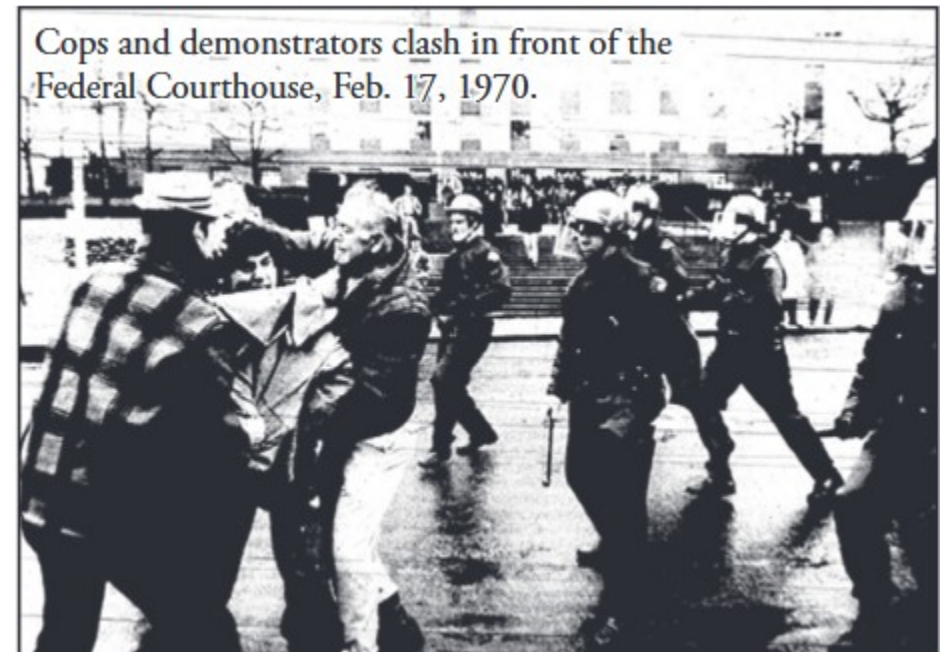


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# THE DUDE SMASHED THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, TOO!

Many of you will be surprised to know that the same damage that was inflicted the US Courthouse on May 1st, 2012, also happened on February 17th, 1970. A group known as the Seattle Liberation Front (SLF) planned to have a demonstration the day after the sentences were handed out against the Chicago Eight. These eight men were charged with conspiracy to organize the riots that took place outside of the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. During this infamous trial, a Black Panther named Bobby Seale was bound and gagged after calling the judge a "honky," a "racist," a "pig," and a



"fascist dog." (Seale's case was eventually severed from the others, and the remaining group became the Chicago 7.)

Ultimately, Bobby Seale was sentenced to four years in prison for contempt of court. Two of the remaining 7 were acquitted and the other five were convicted of crossing state lines with the intent to incite a riot, fined \$5,000 and sentenced to five years in prison. The day after the sentencing, tens of thousands of people across the country rose up in their respective cities. In Seattle, two thousand people took to the streets and descended on what was then the Federal Courthouse. Their action would prove to be the wildest of them all.

A first wave of people smashed out the glass doors of the first floor and threw smoke bombs inside. This was followed by a second wave that broke the upper windows and threw paint bombs at the outside walls. After this, a giant fight broke out between 200 cops and a larger number of dissidents who had come prepared with helmets, padded vests, and sticks. Dozens of cops were heavily injured and several police cruisers were damaged. When the cops began to gain the upper hand by concentrating their assault against the less militant in the crowd, the mass of people decided to turn their attention downtown. They proceeded to cause \$75,000 worth of damage to the downtown shopping district. Seventy-five people were arrested and countless others were injured when night fell and both sides took a step back to regroup.

